

NEW YORK TIMES

FEB 17 1964

# PANAMA INQUIRY SAID TO DISPUTE U.S. CONTENTIONS

## Reported to Find Excessive Shooting During Rioting and Little Red Influence

Special to The New York Times  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—An investigating committee of the Organization of American States was reported today to have found that Communist influence in last month's anti-United States riots in Panama was minimal.

It also found, after a week-long inquiry, that the fire-power used by United States troops to keep Panamanian mobs from penetrating the Canal Zone was "disproportionate" to the threat posed to the security of the United States-occupied territory.

The five-nation committee also decided that the action of the United States forces, even if deemed excessive, did not justify Panama's charges of aggression.

The committee, still in Panama, was appointed by the Council of the inter-American organization to look into Panama's charges and to seek conciliation in the dispute.

[The head of the fact-finding group said in Panama that a formula for peace in the dispute would probably be presented to both sides Monday.]

A confidential account of the committee's investigation was received by Latin-American diplomats here over the weekend.

Conflict on five points emotions that were spurred in Panama. It could not be denied that points of contention had been raised by the United States. These were caused by United States high school students and adult residents of the Canal Zone of an agents trained in Cuba played a preponderant role in inciting the rioting alongside the Stars and Stripes at the Balboa High School. It was the ejection of discipline and restraint during the riots of Jan. 9 and 10. The being compliance with that order that touched off the riots.

Taking into account the 60-year-old history of dissatisfaction in Panama over the tactics giving the United States control of the Canal Zone, the committee considered it unrealistic for Washington to magnify the role of Communist agitation.

The group was also known to have supported the view that Washington's praise of the conduct of its troops in the Canal Zone did little to help ease tensions between the two countries.

Earlier efforts to mediate were made by an O. A. S. group known as the Inter-American Peace Committee. That group's efforts collapsed after the United States refused to guarantee to Panama that it would negotiate a new canal treaty and the Panamanian Government revived the charges of aggression it originally placed before the council Jan. 11.

Following a later Panamanian request for action under the Rio Treaty of 1947, the Council of the Organization of American States agreed Feb. 4 to constitute itself an "organ of consultation" on behalf of the Western Hemisphere foreign ministers. It then appointed a committee with wide powers to investigate and mediate the conflict.

The committee's chairman is Ambassador Juan I. Plate of Paraguay. Its other members are Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Uruguay.